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Bills strengthening the right of self-defense pass state Senate

LANSING—Legislation that strengthens the common law on self-defense and enables people to defend themselves in extremely violent situations has passed the state Senate, said one of the bill's sponsors, Sen. Alan Cropsey.

The six-bill package would allow a person to defend himself with no duty to retreat if faced with imminent violent danger and would grant civil immunity to a person who exercises appropriate self-defense.

“The advantage in a violent assault is with the attacker, who gets to throw the first punch, stab the victim first or fire the first shot,” said Cropsey, R-DeWitt. “Victims are at a distinct disadvantage. These bills will enable victims to defend themselves and their homes without undue fear of criminal or civil retribution.”

Cropsey recounted an incident in which a woman defended her husband from a violent attack in their home and ended up being sued by the attacker.

“This type of nonsense needs to end,” said Cropsey. “This legislation will protect such couples who are legally defending themselves by granting them civil immunity.”

Five other states have passed similar laws—Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Mississippi, and South Dakota.

Senate Bills 1046 and 1185 and House Bills 5142, 5143, 5153 and 5548 now go to the House for further consideration.

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